AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) A method for keeping files current for use in a client computer system coupled to a network, the method comprising the steps of:

evaluating at said client a downloaded file from a source within said network to determine if a source identifier is present in said downloaded file, wherein said downloaded file is stored at said client with a signature string utilized to find said source identifier within said file and one or more identifying parameters from among: (1) a signature string utilized to find said source identifier within said file; (2) a locator string identifying a network location from which the file is sourced; [[(3)]] (2) a date/time and version number of said file; and [[(4)]] (3) a checksum string covering prior entries of said file;

dynamically checking said source periodically utilizing said source identifier to determine if a newer version of said downloaded file exists; and

replacing said downloaded file at said client with a complete copy of said newer version when, in response to the presence of said newer version of said downloaded file, said downloaded file with said newer version exists at said source.

2.   (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said step of evaluating further includes the step of attaching, when no source identifier is present, a source identifier to said downloaded file at said client that indicates the network location from which the downloaded file is obtained.

3.   (currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step of replacing said downloaded file includes the steps of:

providing an indication to a user that said newer version of said file exists;

prompting said user, prior to initiating a download of the newer version, to select whether to replace said downloaded file with said newer version; and

when said user selects to replace the downloaded file with said newer version, initiating said replacing, in response to said user requesting said newer version, of said downloaded file with by downloading a complete copy of said newer version in place of a present version, wherein when said user does not request said newer version, [[a]] the present version of said

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downloaded file on said client is not replaced with the newer version, and the newer version is not downloaded.

4.   (original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said source identifier is located in the extended attribute of said downloaded file.

5.   (canceled)

6.   (currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said source identifier is [[an]] a uniform resource locator (URL).

7.   (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step of checking said source periodically includes:
        defining a default, automatic time interval at which said checking step is initiated; and
        enabling a user of said client to adjust said time interval, if desired.

8.   (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said replacing step further comprises:
        renaming a previously stored copy of said downloaded file on said client system from a current working name to an archived name; and
        storing said newer version of said downloaded file with the current working name of the downloaded file.

9.   (currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step of checking said source comprises checking said source responsive to a request to open/access ~~whenever~~ said downloaded file ~~is opened~~, wherein, when said checking step is preset to be automatically initiated at ~~includes~~ a defined periodic time interval ~~at which said checking is automatically initiated~~, said method further comprises overriding [[said]] a current time interval by initiating said checking step at the time of receipt of the request to open/access said downloaded file ~~is opened~~ and restarting a current time interval.

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10.   (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising storing an identifier and a source descriptor of said downloaded file and each newer version of said downloaded file in a specially coded file registry, which is checked by a controller for correct file location during said checking step.

11.   (original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said network is a packet network.

12.   (currently amended) A computer system for use operating in a network environment, comprising:

a processor;

a storage device;

an update manager executing within said processor, including:

means for evaluating a downloaded file from a source within said network to determine if a source identifier is present in said downloaded file, wherein said downloaded file is stored in said storage device with a signature string, different from a name string of the file and utilized to identify said source identifier within said file and one or more identifying parameters from among: (1) a signature string utilized to find said source identifier within said file; (2) a locator string identifying a network location from which the file is sourced; [[(3)]] 2 a date/time and version number of said file; and [[(4)]] 3 a checksum string covering prior entries of said file;

means for checking said source periodically utilizing said source identifier to determine if a newer version of said downloaded file exists; and

means for replacing said downloaded file at said client with a complete copy of said newer version when, in response to the presence of a the newer version of said downloaded file is present at the source, said downloaded file with said newer version.

13.   (currently amended) The computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said means for evaluating further includes means for attaching, in response to no source identifier being present, a source identifier to said downloaded file at said client.

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14.   (currently amended) The computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said means for replacing said downloaded file includes:

means for providing an indication to a user that said newer version of said file exists;

means for prompting said user, prior to initiating a download of the newer version, to replace said downloaded file with said newer version; and

means, when said user selects to replace the downloaded file with said newer version, for initiating said replacing, in response to said user requesting said newer version, of said downloaded file with by downloading a complete copy of said newer version in place of a present version, wherein when said user does not request said newer version, [[a]] the present version of said downloaded file on said client is not replaced with the newer version, and the newer version is not downloaded.

15.   (original) The computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said source identifier is located in the extended attribute of said downloaded file.

16.   (canceled)

17.   (currently amended) The computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said source identifier is [[an]] a uniform resource locator (URL).

18.   (currently amended) The computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said means for checking said source periodically includes:

means for defining a default, automatic time interval at which said checking step is initiated; and

means for enabling a user to adjust said time interval, if desired.

19.   (currently amended) The computer system as recited in Claim 18 wherein said replacing [[step]] means further comprises:

means for renaming a previously stored copy of said downloaded file on said client system from a current working name to an archived name; and

means for storing said newer version of said downloaded file with the current working

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name of the downloaded file.

20.   (currently amended) The computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said means for checking said source comprises checking said source responsive to a request to open/access whenever said downloaded file is opened, wherein, when said checking includes is preset to be automatically initiated at a defined periodic time interval at which said checking is automatically initiated, said system further comprises means for overriding said a current time interval by initiating said checking whenever the request to open/access said downloaded file is opened received and restarting a current time interval.

21.   (previously presented) The computer system as recited in Claim 12, further comprising means for storing an identifier and a source descriptor of said downloaded file and each newer version of said downloaded file in a specially coded file registry, which is checked by a controller for correct file location during said checking step.

22.   (previously presented) The computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein said network is a packet network and said computer system is a client system coupled to said network.

23.   (currently amended) A computer program product comprising:
    a computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for implementing a method for keeping files current for use in a client computer system coupled to a network, said computer executable instructions when executed, perform the steps of:
        evaluating at said client a downloaded file from a source within said network to determine if a source identifier is present in said downloaded file, wherein said downloaded file is stored at said client with a name string and a signature string, different from the name string and utilized to identify said source identifier within said file and one or more identifying parameters from among: (1) a signature string utilized to find said source identifier within said file; (2) a locator string identifying a network location from which the file is sourced; [[(3)]] (2) a date/time and version number of said file; and [[(4)]] (3) a checksum string covering prior entries of said file;

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dynamically checking said source periodically utilizing said source identifier to determine if a newer version of said downloaded file exists; and

replacing said downloaded file at said client with a complete copy of said newer version when, in response to the presence of said newer version of said downloaded file, said downloaded file with said newer version exists at said source.

24.   (currently amended) The computer program product as recited in Claim 23 wherein said step of evaluating further includes the step of attaching, in response to no source identifier being present, a source identifier to said downloaded file at said client.

25.   (currently amended) The computer program product as recited in Claim 23 wherein said step of replacing said downloaded file includes the steps of:

providing an indication to a user that said newer version of said file exists;

prompting said user, prior to initiating a download of the newer version, to replace said downloaded file with said newer version; and

when said user selects to replace the downloaded file with said newer version, initiating said replacing, in response to said user requesting said newer version, of said downloaded file with by downloading a complete copy of said newer version in place of a present version, wherein when said user does not request said newer version, [[a]] the present version of said downloaded file on said client is not replaced with the newer version, and the newer version is not downloaded

26.   (original) The computer program product as recited in Claim 23 wherein said source identifier is located in the extended attribute of said downloaded file.

27.   (canceled)

28.   (currently amended) The computer program product as recited in Claim 23 wherein said source identifier is [[an]] a uniform resource locator (URL).

29.   (previously presented) The computer program product as recited in Claim 23 wherein said step of checking said source periodically includes:

defining a default, automatic time interval at which said checking step is initiated; and

enabling a user to adjust said time interval, if desired.

30.   (previously presented) The computer program product as recited in Claim 29 wherein said replacing step further comprises:

renaming a previously stored copy of said downloaded file on said client system from a current working name to an archived name; and

storing said newer version of said downloaded file with the current working name of the downloaded file.

31.   (currently amended) The computer program product as recited in claim 23 wherein said step of checking said URL comprises checking said source responsive to a request to open/access whenever said downloaded file is opened, wherein, when said checking step is preset to be automatically initiated at includes a defined periodic time interval at which said checking is automatically initiated, said method further comprises overriding said a current time interval by initiating said checking step at the time of receipt of the request to open/access said downloaded file is opened and restarting a current time interval.

32.   (previously presented) The computer program product as recited in Claim 23, further comprising storing an identifier and a source descriptor of said downloaded file and each newer version of said downloaded file in a specially coded file registry, which is checked by a controller for correct file location during said checking step.

33.   (original) The computer program product as recited in Claim 23 wherein said network is a packet network.

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